

MONTICELLO PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



November/December 2004

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY

November 29,
2004
7:00 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church
950 Donaldson Avenue

Future Meetings:

General Assembly

- November 29
- January 31

Board

- December 13
- January 10
- February 14

THIS OLD HOUSE

By Eric Lane

Sixteen. That's how old Eloise Creek was when she stepped off the train and onto the station platform in downtown San Antonio.

"My mother wrote one day that my brother had been wounded in the war (the Second World War) and could we get to San Antonio on an emergency transfer? He's at Brooke General Hospital, she wrote. I was working at the Pacific Telephone Company in California at the time. I'd gone there to live with my sister. So, my sister and I came to San Antonio as fast as we could get here."

That's what brought Eloise Creek, the woman who would soon design and build the house my wife and I live in at 330 Quentin Drive, to San Antonio. She came so that she could be near her wounded brother and do what she and her sister could for him. After two to three weeks in town, her brother was transferred to The McCloskey Hospital in Waco. There was no way that Eloise could get another transfer from the telephone company, so she and her sister remained in San Antonio.



Eloise Creek sitting in the kitchen alcove she built in 1946

Eloise loved flying. An uncle who flew for Eastern Airlines had exposed Eloise to the joy of flying. The flying bug immediately bit her. She wanted to be a nurse but, even more, she wanted to ferry bombers overseas.

"That was my dream. I wanted to ferry bombers. I was already taking flying lessons. But it was eight dollars an hour. I earned twenty five dollars a week and could only put four dollars a week aside for lessons and I needed more money." That's what made Eloise look for another job, a job that would change her life forever.

Someone mentioned to Eloise to go by the Black & White Cab Company. They were looking for a dispatcher and the starting pay was thirty dollars a week. "That was five dollars a week more which meant oh, that's 30 more minutes I could fly!"

Eloise walked into Black & White and the moment she met King Fisher, the owner, "I knew that was the man I wanted to marry." Four months later, they were.

As we sat at the table in the kitchen alcove that Eloise designed and had built, memories came racing back. Eloise had not been back to the house since she moved out on March 24, 1952. Then, in a way, this house is a love house for you?" I asked meaning that the house had been built at a wonderful time in her life when she was young, in love, and happy.

"Absolutely."

"But you were so young?"

"I was seventeen. Women in those days married younger. We were married five years when we adopted our

(Continued on page 10)

2004

**Monticello Park Neighborhood
Association**

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738-0379
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735-5032

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Roy Mufiz.....736-1051
Enrique Valdez.....734-6857

Newsletter Committee

Editor: Eric Lane
Copy Editor: Kellen Kee McIntyre
Production Manager: Christa Emig
Advertising Manager: Roy Mufiz

Advertising

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San Antonio, Texas 78201



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another fall season is with us, meaning the MPNA elects a new governing board soon. The past year we have met several goals. The association state incorporation and IRS business is in the hands of a trusted CPA. The association is in good standing with both. A long-sought alley clean up campaign has been completed. Congratulations go to Joe Stehle and the many volunteers for a successful project. The Social Committee, chaired by Susan Dusek, brought back the Easter Egg Hunt for our little neighbors. A very successful National Night Out sponsored by Redeemer Lutheran Church was also organized by Susan. A profitable Garage Sale in early spring, chaired by Brenda Flores, increased the association treasury. Besides being fun, it is a way of exchanging those unwanted items for new treasures. The Mint Julep was resurrected with a good turn-out and, more importantly, Emilie and Wayne Ehrisman have volunteered to host the Mint Julep for next year! So, Tony Smith gets to make his famous Mint Juleps once again! The association participation in the Jefferson/Woodlawn Lake/CDC Cool Crest Golf Tournament was fun and brought in a few more dollars for the treasury. The tournament provides the partnership the association and CDC need to help the Fredericksburg Rd. business corridor. Keep in mind, our association prospers if the businesses do well. The Scholarship Committee chaired by Diana Arevalo has increased the amount given to a worthy Jefferson High School senior. The relationship between the association and Jefferson High School needs to continue with this scholarship program.

Our newest neighbor, Primrose at Monticello Park, nearing completion, is fulfilling the dream of many neighbors by becoming a reality. This development will benefit our community for years to come. I can not express in words the respect I have for Southwest Housing. Their cooperation with our association, the committee, and surrounding community was a breath of fresh air. To all of the Southwest Housing family of employees, the association thanks you!

After noting some of the accomplishments of the current MPNA board, I cannot thank each of you enough for your support, ideas, cooperation, and personal time spent doing association work. You all did the job very well and without complaining. Thank you!!

The reason we board members had time to do much of the association business is due to Eric Lane. Eric took on the responsibility as editor of the Newsletter. I think most everyone would agree the current Newsletter is the best the association has had. And, it is paying its own way due to the efforts of basically one person, Roy Muniz. Roy, as a board member, took on the task of selling the ads for it. He did it in a big way! Many thanks, Roy.

Eric has done a superb job as editor, writer, etc. Thanks to Tim Logan for doing the layout for each issue. Eric's other staff is to be congratulated, also. The Newsletter is the life's blood of a neighborhood association. Getting information to our members and neighbors creates interest in the community, educates everyone on issues, promotes the community and makes us better San Antonio citizens. Eric, thank you for a job very well done! The Newsletter also needs you who deliver it. To all of you who deliver on Donaldson, Furr, Mary Louise, Club, North, Quentin, Leming, Rosemont, Cromwell, and Kampmann, thank you for getting the Newsletter to your neighbors!

Thank you, again, to all the current board members, committee chairs, and all the other volunteers who did work for the association. We had quite a ride this year. To the new board, all the best to you in 2005 with your own goals and projects.

David R. Logan
President, MPNA

FROM THE EDITOR

Can you believe it? Another year for the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association is about to come to an end. And you know what that means, right? It's time to elect a new board for the coming year. The Search Committee has met a number of times and put forth a very good group of candidates. You can see a sample ballot on page 8.

At the next association meeting not only will you have the pleasure of voting in our next group of community leaders, but you'll also have the equally enjoyable task of paying your association membership dues right on time. Try to remember to bring your check book! I would argue that the pearls spewing forth on the pages of this newsletter are worth the meager association dues. So, get to the next association meeting early, pay your dues, pick up a ballot, and vote the right way.

Eric F. Lane
Editor, MPNA Newsletter

P.S. Some changes are occurring at the newsletter. With school, work, music performances, and cutting the grass so dad won't get angry, Tim Logan, our venerable Microsoft Publisher Man, has discovered, at the tender age of 20, that there are only 24 hours in a day. In other words, Tim has just realized that all life boils down to trying to catch up to what you were supposed to have finished last week... or is that last year? Oh, well, we'll miss you, Tim, and thanks, really thanks from the bottom of our hearts. Without you we wouldn't be us.

Into the breach has jumped Christa Emig. Christa teaches math (which is way beyond my comprehension) at Northwest Vista College and is presently involved with a project supporting its accreditation process. An avid cyclist, she's setting her bike aside to train for the Austin marathon. She has lived in the neighborhood for three years. We welcome her to the MPNA Newsletter and look forward to working with her.

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PER SESSION

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PER SESSION

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REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL TO HOLD 'MANY NATIONS UNDER GOD' INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

Redeemer Lutheran School, located at 2507 Fredericksburg Road, is celebrating Many Nations Under God - an International Food Festival, Thursday, November 18, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the school gym. Parents and students are making different exotic foods, and colorful and informative displays for everyone to enjoy. You are invited to be part of this great festival and have a taste of food and culture from China, the Caribbean Islands, Italy, Russia, and Mexico. No passport needed.

For more info, call (210) 735-9903.

ALLEY MEETING

By Eric Lane

On November 5, 2004, Joe Stehle, Jesus Cardenas, Robert Solis, and I met with Stephen Haney of the Environmental Services and Solid Waste Division and Cynthia Martinez from the City Manager's Office to discuss the closure of the 200 block of North Avenue to garbage service. During that meeting a number of issues were addressed. First and foremost is the problem with the size of the new city garbage trucks. These new trucks are designed primarily for suburban areas with front yard pick up. Soon, the new automated garbage pick-up systems that will come into service will further exacerbate the situation. The narrowness of some of our alleys poses a serious threat to the safety of sanitation employees and the size of the trucks could potentially damage adjacent property structures.

On the other hand, closing our neighborhood alleys would create danger zones of overgrown weeds, garbage pile ups, dumped debris, and possible criminal activity. Not only would closure of our alleys destroy some of the character of our neighborhood and create danger zones, but it would also visually harm and disfigure the historical district because large garbage cans would be placed in front of every home. We all agreed that this would be the least attractive solution to the problem.

The issue of cost was discussed. Can Environ-



Cynthia Martinez, City Managers Office, Jesus Cardenas, Robert Solis, Stephen Haney, Environmental Services and Joe Stehle

mental Services customize some of its services by purchasing smaller (even used) garbage trucks that can more easily maneuver the alleys of historical districts in our city? Would residents of Monticello Park be willing to pay a bit more to cover the higher costs of continuing alley pick-up service? What other options are available? And, most importantly, can we allow these issues to go unaddressed much longer?

Update: on November 18, a second meeting was held regarding the 200 block of North. The out-of-compliance alley encroachment issue was discussed further with the tentative resolution that in order for the 200 block of North to have alley pickup, several residences will have to reduce portions of obstructing structures. The MPNA Press will keep you informed.

As usual, Joe Stehle is to be commended for organizing a very productive meeting. Hopefully, we will have many fruitful meetings with City representatives.



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CDC REPORT

The Roy Huerta Jr. Memorial Miniature Golf Tournament at Cool Crest a Success

The Jefferson Woodlawn Lake Community Development Corporation (CDC) would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Roy Huerta Jr. Memorial Miniature Golf Tournament at Cool Crest. The event was a great success with over 120 neighbors and friends coming out to support the work of the CDC and to join in remembrance of our dear friend, Roy Huerta Jr.

Congratulations to the following Golf Tournament winners:

- 1st Place Team: Woodlawn Lake Community Association (Score: 170)
- 2nd Place Team: Whole Foods (Score: 205)
- 3rd Place Team: Southwest Housing (211)
- Lowest Individual Score: Alex Arevalo (Score: 40)

Streetscape & Travis Building Projects Update

The CDC is proud to report that on Thursday, November 4, our San Antonio City Council unanimously approved an ordinance releasing the 2003 Bond funds that will pay for the Travis Building parking lot and the rest of the Streetscape project.

The funding represents the entire \$950,000 Bond funding amount minus what has already been spent: \$168,237 for the purchase and demolition of five houses behind the building and \$23,909 for engineering studies related to the parking lot. We will soon be executing an amendment to our capital improvements contract with the City.

The contract for the first phase of Streetscape (from Kings Highway to Rosewood) has been awarded, the palm trees have been ordered, and the work should be complete by the end of February 2005. We will now begin working on the design for the second phase of the project, taking the improvements all the way to Quentin. Also, our Building Committee is already working on the Phase II Agreement with Contractor James Lifshutz so that construction work on the Travis Building and parking lot can begin next month. That project should be completed in April 2005.

Paul C. Stahl
CDC Board President



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Monticello Park

CHRISTMAS DECORATION CONTEST

This year a committee will be assembled to decide which house in the hood is the hippest in Christmas decor. So, get your merry old decorations out and make Santa happy. If your house wins, you'll be in these pages next issue and maybe get a big, fat prize. But we will also feature houses that come in second, third and so on. Get your cookies and milk ready, the committee will need lots of bribing, oops, I mean lots of Christmas cheer!!!

(If you want to volunteer to help decide which houses are the most Christmassy,
sign up at the Nov. 29th meeting.)



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THE UNBELIEVABLE RAFFLE!

You are not going to believe this, but at the Nov. 29th General Meeting a raffle will be held for a secret prize. The prize is of such magnitude that we can only call it **"The Unbelievable Raffle!"**

It only costs a buck. One dollar a ticket.
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- Prescription Medication Program
- Exercise Program
- Health Screenings
- Food Assistance
- Social Outings

Your Community

- Limited Access Gates
- Covered Parking
- Elevators in Each Building
- Barbecue Area with Grills
- Heated Swimming Pool with Wheelchair Access
- Pets Welcome
- Professionally Landscaped Grounds
- 24 Hour Emergency Maintenance



THE SERDA REPORT

Hello, and I hope all of you are doing well. These past few weeks have been busy in the area and all around the Monticello district. The activity in the Jefferson area has been especially high with 18 burglaries to vehicles reported in the past 30 days. Increases were reported in all areas. I have seen an increase in graffiti all over, and encourage everyone to report it to the police.

We are headed into the beginning of the Holiday calendar and Christmas is just around the corner. I have been receiving calls about thefts of decorations and seasonal items from homes in the area. I suggest that if you are going to put out expensive decorations, that you anchor them down as best as possible. Or, put them near a front window, which might make someone think twice about going onto your lawn to steal them. I suggest motion lights be placed around the decorations as a deterrent.

My sergeant advised me that I will be working every third Saturday of the month, beginning in January. I suggested I start graffiti clean up, utilizing the free labor I have on Saturdays. Kids who have to do community service supply the labor and the City supplies the paint. Please make a note of the locations in your neighborhood that are plagued by graffiti and give them to your president. I'll contact her or him for a list of locations the week before my third-Saturday-of-the-month shift. On

Saturday morning, I'll have my crew clean up the graffiti at those locations. Just remember that if the graffiti is on private property, I'll have to have permission first, so if you can provide me with a name, address, and telephone number, I'll call them prior to going out.

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting. Be SAFFE, and take care!



Marcos Serda #0592
SAFFE Officer

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Animal Control	737-1442
Brush Pickup	522-8831
Code Compliance	207-7230
Councilman Julian Castro	207-7040
Garage Sale Permits	207-8263
Health Department	207-8780
Historic Preservation	207-7873
Jefferson Co-Op	735-9419
Noise Complaints	207-7230
Non-emergency	311
Police West Substation	207-7420
SAWS (San Antonio Water System)	227-6143
SAFFE Officer Pager- Marcos Serda	759-3612
Youth Services	207-7191

Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

Ballot for 2005

(Nominations from the floor may be written in on the side.)

President:

- Rob Sipes
 Lynne Wilkerson

Vice-President:

- Gina Omay

Secretary:

- Gladys Williams

Treasurer:

- Olivia Kilpatrick

Board Members: (You may check 6 names.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Burney | <input type="checkbox"/> Jesse Gonzales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dora Kurges | <input type="checkbox"/> Roy Muniz |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juliana Garcia | <input type="checkbox"/> Ron Hubbert |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bianca Maldonado | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Pena |

Nov. 29, 2004 MPNA Election Registration Staff:

John Propes, Chairman	Kellen Kee McIntyre
Scott Williams	Sidney Mitchell
Robert Solis	Basil Scaldon

MARIA BONITA'S IS MUY BONITA

By Eric Lane

If you haven't noticed, there is a new store in the heart of the Deco District. Located at 1508 Fredericksburg Road, it's called "Maria Bonita" and it is owned by Maria and Charles Lagrange. Filled with marvelous imported goods from different parts of the world, this new store exudes a refined taste mixed with a modern color palette and a dash of the exotic.

It makes sense. Maria, from Piedras Negras in Mexico, worked for a number of years as an interior decorator and consultant in Laredo, Texas. She has brought those skills and knowledge to San Antonio and we are very lucky to have her here.

The store brims with an eclectic mix of hard and soft surfaces and textures. Iron planters, wall designs, awnings, and even a gorgeous iron gazebo fill the interior. You can purchase what is available or have a custom design made to your specific needs.

Pottery from Guadalajara and Pueblo is also available, as well as stunning ceramics from Indonesia, and shawls, table cloths, pillows, and even jewelry from India. These are the tools of an interior decorator and Maria offers this service to her customers as well. Check it out. The pricing is very reasonable, the selection surprisingly broad, and the quality superb. We hope that Maria and Charles thrive in the Deco and remain here for years to come.



Maria Bonita's hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11 to 7, and Saturday and Sunday, 10 to 7.



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HOA
TACLA023435E / MPL17105

...Continued from page 1, "This Old House"

first child and when I saw this booth and Judy's (her daughter) high chair would fit right here, my old memories started taking over..."

Business was doing very well at the cab company. King and Eloise were working hard and long hours. They worked the 4pm to 6am shift and then would head home to King's tiny apartment.

"I don't know how I did it, but I had a husband who had enough faith in me and he believed I could do anything."

So, in 1946 King and Eloise Fisher bought three lots on Quentin Dr., the last street in the old city limits. There were only three or four houses out here at the time. On the corner of Kampmann and Quentin lived Mr. Roth who owned KONO, one of the best radio stations in town. When it rained, Kampmann would flood (not much has changed!)

Eloise and King moved out here "because there was a lot of land available, there was a lot of brush and we both had horses." And then folks began to "build a house here, a large one over there and the first thing you know, people were complaining about us having horses here." Later, Lloyd Denton came and "put in a whole bunch of little houses over there on Leming." It wasn't long after that that the Fishers moved way out of town to Castle Hills.

"I didn't have a budget. I could put in anything I wanted to," and Eloise did. They were one of the first folks in San Antonio to have wall-to-wall carpeting.

"I wanted something different so I ordered carpeting, a beautiful, expensive carpet." It was plush and the talk of the neighborhood.

They had the first air conditioner, which Eloise never

liked and had taken out. She couldn't understand why anyone would want an air conditioner. This explains why the house had all the duct work already in place when we moved in and put in central air and heat.

"We played a lot," Eloise continued. So she had a basement built (yes, a basement!) that became the game room. It had a custom bar, a bathroom with a shower that still has all the original tile and accessories, and a separate room that served as King's home office.

By now, Eloise was seventeen years old! King Fisher was thirty-three. They were both extremely happy but realized the house lacked a few things. In 1949, Eloise made some additions. She added the 'circle room,' a beautiful room with windows circling almost the entire back section of the house that looks out onto the garden. She added another garage and enlarged the driveway. She also enclosed the front porch.

In 1950, she built the only swimming pool in the neighborhood. It was thirteen feet deep! In those days there were no filter systems, so the pool was drained every two weeks and the sides scrubbed with brushes and Clorox. The old water was sprinkled on the yard.

After the house was sold, Eloise never came back to see it. Then, one day in the fall of 2003, I was out front working on the yard when I saw a white Cadillac cruising very slowly down Quentin. The car window was down and I heard a supple, lilting voice that beckoned me with its lighthearted, joyful sound.

"Are you the owner?" she asked.

"Yes, I am."

"I am Eloise Creek and I built this house!"



MPNA Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to MPNA Scholarship recipient Melissa Vara. Pictured left to right are Justin Rodriquez (District 7 trustee SAISD), Diana Arevalo (Scholarship Committee chair), Mr. Vara, Melissa Vara, Julian Castro, and Mrs. Vara.

The \$750 scholarship was awarded at the general assembly meeting on July 26. Ms. Vara is currently attending UT Austin.

TREASURER'S REPORT

JOES' FINAL MESSAGE AND UPDATE AS YOUR TREASURER

As my reign as Treasurer and Alley Clean-up Committee Chairman come to a close, I have many thanks to give to the generous contributors, street and block captains, and MPNA members and officers. There are many people that donated their time, energy, and funds to make this a great year of success, and I am proud to have been able to work with such great people.

I foresee 2005 being even better for Monticello Park Neighborhood Association. Many, many thanks go to the people who have paved the way for future success; Sandy Villareal, Niki Jefferson, Juliana Barcia, Bob Burney, Olivia Kilpatrick, Luis Fisher, Frank Navarro, AJ Cuellar, Rose Pena, Damaso Rodriguez, Loretta Salazar, Mark Cisneros, Gladys Williams, Robert Solis, Ronald Hubbert, Rafael Pena, Gerald Rodriguez, Jesus Cardenas, Haven Young, Roy Muniz, John Sutter, Sidney Mitchell, Laura Campa, Emilio Torres, Randy Rice, David Logan, Rob Sipes, Gladys Propes, John Propes, Robert Espinoza, Jesse Gonzales, Charles Kesi, Enrique Valdez, Eric Lane, Kellen McIntyre, Tim Logan, and so many more to give a big "Thank You!" for everyone's help in the past and future endeavors.

Again, my thanks go to Jorge Gonzales with Gonzales Tree Service for a job well done on the alley clean up. His tree contract runs through August 2005.

Call Jorge anytime if you have any yard work projects.
287-5665.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

Joe E. Stehle
Treasurer

2004 TREASURER'S REPORT UPDATE

Nov. 1st, 2004

CD Account	\$11,329.70
Savings Account	2,517.74
Checking Account	2,325.68

MONTICELLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Monticello Park Neighborhood Association is for everyone (owners and renters).
Recommended annual contributions are \$15.00 per household and \$10.00 for seniors.

Yes, I want to invest in my neighborhood. Enclosed is my 2005 contribution.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

I would also like to help on the following committees:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety/Crime Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Tour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Directory | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |

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<p>#4 1 X-Large 16" 1 Topping 10 Hot Wings \$14.99</p>	<p>#5 2 Large 14" 1 Topping \$16.99</p>	<p>#6 3 X-Large 16" 1 Topping \$26.99</p>

Weekday Specials

<p>All Week Slice of 1 Topping and a Drink \$3.25</p>	<p>Tuesday Medium 12" 2 Topping \$5.00 (Limit 5)</p>	<p>All Week 30 Hot Wings \$12.99</p>
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